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## COCAF News

### *Important News in This Edition!*

Things you'll definitely want to read in this newsletter:

- 2-day FREE training for adoptive parents, professionals, and advocates (page 18)
- Survey to collect data on mental health services cuts (page 3)
- Why COCAF needs your help now (see following article)

### *The Future of COCAF*

For those of you who don't know, COCAF's federal AFI grant ended September 30. For the last 5 years, funds from this grant were used to provide post-adoptive support to over a thousand Colorado families. For many families, the support provided by COCAF was critical to maintaining stability in their families.

COCAF wants to continue provide services to adoptive families in Colorado, but we won't be able to do this without your help. There are many ways you can help:

- Donate! Go to <http://www.cocaf.org> and click on the Donate Now button on the upper right corner of the screen. Any amount helps. If you don't want to donate online, we're more than willing to accept your checks. Just mail your check to:  
COCAF  
5702 West 114th Place  
Westminster, CO 80020-6831
- Serve on the board! We need energetic, skilled board members who are members of an adoptive family (adoptee, adoptive parent, etc.) and are willing to donate their time and expertise to help COCAF support other adoptive families.
- Volunteer! If you have time to spare, we may have a project that you could help complete. Email me at [colleen.tarket@cocaf.org](mailto:colleen.tarket@cocaf.org), and we'll match you to a project.

Providing support to adoptive families is our mission, and we need your help to continue providing this support.

Colleen Tarket, COCAF Development Director  
[colleen.tarket@cocaf.org](mailto:colleen.tarket@cocaf.org)

### *Denied Mental Health Services?*

If your child has been denied critical mental health services, we'd like to know. COCAF is collecting data that will be shared with our legislators in hopes of reversing the recent cuts in critical mental health services. Please go to <http://www.cocaf.org/crti-form> and complete the form so we can provide accurate information to our lawmakers.

### *Only Three More Months!*

Applewood Plumbing, Heating & Electrical is giving away \$12,000 in 12 months. Applewood is going to give back to the community by donating \$1,000 a month to local nonprofit companies. They will be accepting nominations through the mail or on the web and will choose a winner monthly using a random drawing. The more times COCAF is entered into the drawing, the better our chances of winning. **You may re-enter every month (until COCAF wins!), but you may only enter once per month.** Charities may receive multiple entries, so refer this site to your friends. Please take the time to enter COCAF into this drawing. If COCAF wins, the \$1,000 will be used to continue providing support services to adoptive families.

To enter online, go to: <http://www.applewoodfixit.com/12in12.html>

To complete the form for COCAF, enter the following information:

Non-profit name: COCAF

Non-profit phone number: 303-562-9864

Web site: cocaf.org

### *COCAF Services*

If you are in need of COCAF's services or just want to pass on some information, you may email Deborah Cave, Executive Director, at [deborah.cave@cocaf.org](mailto:deborah.cave@cocaf.org).

### *COCAF Newsletter*

If you have items you think would be appropriate for the COCAF newsletter, please forward those items to [colleen.tarket@cocaf.org](mailto:colleen.tarket@cocaf.org) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for consideration for the next month.

## Adoption/Kinship/Foster Information

### *Policy Changes*

#### **Title IV-E Eligibility Based on Age**

For information on the new guidelines for Title IV-E eligibility based on age, refer to the updated information at:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/policy/pi/2009/pi0910.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/pi/2009/pi0910.htm).

There is a chart close to the bottom of the page that shows the age changes by year for easy reference. Remember that the age used to determine eligibility is the child's age at the end of each federal fiscal year (FFY), which is September 30. For example, for 2009, the cutoff date was Wednesday, September 30, 2009 (the end of the federal fiscal year).

#### **International Adoptions**

Effective in FFY 2010, the Act specifically prohibits the payment of an adoption assistance payment (including payments of non-recurring expenses under section 473(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Act) on behalf of an "applicable child" who is not a citizen or resident of the United States (U.S.) and was either adopted outside the U.S. or brought to the U.S. for the purpose of being adopted (see section 473(a)(7) of the Act). Existing policy for a "non-applicable" child continues at the Child Welfare Policy Manual Section 8.2B.6, Q/A #1.

#### **Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008**

The Child Welfare Policy Manual now has this disclaimer:

As a result of the enactment of "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008" (Public Law 110-351), the relevant CWPM Q/As are in the process of being revised to reflect the many changes made by the law. Until such time as the edits to the sections of the CWPM related to the changes made to the Act by P.L. 110-351 are complete, please refer to the statute and official guidance from the Children's Bureau (such as Program Instructions and Information Memoranda) for definitive guidance on the requirements. You also may contact your Regional Office representative for further clarification.

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/i2ee/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/index.jsp](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/i2ee/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/index.jsp)

## Conferences

### *Journey of Asian Adoption: Building a Multicultural Family*

Friday, October 9, 2009 – Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, October 10, 2009 – Workshops

Hilton Garden Hotel, Denver Tech Center, 7675 East Union Ave., Denver, CO 80237

Presented by the Asian Pacific Development Center, the October conference will bring together leaders in Asian adoption from throughout the United States. The conference will be in two parts, including a Friday night gala dinner and a full day of workshops and panels on Saturday. Attendees can choose to participate in one or both days.

Honorary Chairs for both events are Colorado's first lady, Jeannie Ritter, and Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo, Pat Cortez.

The conference will begin Friday evening October 9, with a dinner featuring renowned sportswriter Rick Reilly. Reilly, who has been voted National Sportswriter of the Year 11 times and whose popular column "The Life of Reilly" graced the pages of Sports Illustrated for nearly 23 years, will join the conference with his 20-year old daughter Rae who was adopted from Korea as an infant. The two will share the story of their journey to Korea in search of Rae's birth family. Attendees can expect an original presentation with Reilly's trademark depth, humor, and heart.

On Saturday, registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a light breakfast. Workshops begin at 9:15 a.m., and will be led by adoption experts. They will include key topics of interest to both current and prospective adoptive parents. Many workshops will include older Asian adoptees who will share their insight and views.

Onsite childcare will be provided on Saturday for \$15 per child.

Check with your adoption agency to see how these workshops may contribute towards your Colorado pre-adoption education requirements.

For more information on the conference, send an email with your questions to: [dgliwa@comcast.net](mailto:dgliwa@comcast.net) or call 303-365-2959 ext 113.

Online registration is available at: [www.APDC.org](http://www.APDC.org), then select ADOPTION CONFERENCE.

## Children with Disabilities Information

### *Mothers from Hell*

Mothers From Hell 2 (MFH2) is a grass-roots parent advocacy group, fighting for the appropriate education, community acceptance, desperately needed services, rights of, and entitlements for individuals with disabilities. They offer support and empowerment for families of individuals with special needs.

The original MFH was founded in 1992 by a group of mothers of children with special needs in Eugene, Oregon, in response to the extreme difficulty of obtaining services. At the end of 1999 due to various personal reasons, they decided to fold their MFH and hope that another group would start up. Four mothers of children with special needs in Illinois did not want to see this valuable support and resource disappear, so they formed MFH2.

MFH2 intends to advocate individually, locally, and nationally for the rights of every individual with a disability to receive the services and inclusion to which they are entitled. They educate, entertain, and empower families in many ways including: newsletters, presentations, exhibits, products, a website, assisting in forming support groups, and attendance at individual meetings locally to assist with education planning and career choices, etc.

To read more about the MFH@, go to: <http://www.mothersfromhell2.com/default.html>

### *Let Them Hear Foundation (LTHF)*

The Let Them Hear Foundation (LTHF) announced the creation of a new special education resource website for parents of children with disabilities and for professionals who would like to learn about the special education services that are available for their students at [IDEA.letthemhear.org](http://IDEA.letthemhear.org).

Since 2004, LTHF has helped individuals denied coverage by their health insurers obtain hearing related surgeries, services, devices, and other technologies. Specific appeal areas include cochlear implants, Baha® implants for children with conductive hearing loss, atresia repair, microtia reconstruction, balance disorders, and other hearing related devices and surgery.

The website will aid parents and the professionals working with *children affected by any of the thirteen disability categories* defined by IDEA 2004, as well as provide information relating to the specific category of hearing impairment, including deafness. LTHF

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Advocacy Program Advocate Taylor Hoang, J.D. explains, "The special education website explains key concepts of IDEA 2004. IDEA topic summaries, which are also available in Spanish, describe the early intervention, special education, and related services available to IDEA-eligible children."

Some of the topics discussed include Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), Individual Education Program (IEP), Assistive Technology Devices and Services, and Due Process. The IDEA topic summaries provide both general explanation of subject matter and applicable legal language of IDEA 2004 and its implementing regulations.

Regarding information collection for the website, Hoang states, "Attorneys researched various websites, including the Department of Education IDEA webpage. Private attorneys specializing in Special Education law were consulted when needed. The layout and organization of the topic summaries resemble a legal brief but are written in parent-friendly language. The reader can also click on a summary hyperlink that takes them to the corresponding law section on the Department of Education website or other websites as appropriate."

Founder and former Director of the Advocacy Program Sheri Byrne-Haber, J.D. points out, "IDEA is intended to be implemented the same everywhere, yet often it is not, because school districts do not understand their obligations to provide children with hearing loss with the assistive technology and services they are eligible to receive. Parents also may not fully understand what services their child is entitled to under IDEA. A website such as this will give both parents and professionals the required information in an easy-to-understand format to ensure the child receives a free appropriate public education."

The Special Education IDEA website will eventually be a subscription based resource but currently is being offered free of charge for a limited time only. Interested individuals will want to take advantage of this great opportunity to explore the website. To learn more about the special education website, please visit [IDEA.letthemhear.org](http://IDEA.letthemhear.org), or call Amy Brown at 650-617-2255 or toll-free at 877-HEAR-HELP.



## Education

### *International Dyslexia Association, Rocky Mountain Branch*

If you are looking for information on or resources for dyslexia, contact Elenn Steinberg, coordinator of the International Dyslexia Association, Rocky Mountain Branch at [ida\\_rmb@yahoo.com](mailto:ida_rmb@yahoo.com) or 303-721-9425. You can ask to be put on the email list so that you can learn about conferences, workshops, and support groups.

### *Douglas County Dyslexia Resource Group*

If you live in Douglas County, you can join the Dyslexia Resource Group. For more information, contact Sally at [dyslexiaresourcegroup@comcast.net](mailto:dyslexiaresourcegroup@comcast.net) or 303-791-3360.

### *Restraint Rules and Guidelines Notice of Rule Making*

The State Board of Education will hold a public rulemaking hearing to amend the Rules for the Administration of the Protection of Persons from Restraint Act, 1 CCR 301-45. The rulemaking hearing will be held on **Thursday, October 8, 2009, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Colorado Department of Education located at 201 E. Colfax Ave., Room 101, Denver, CO 80203.** The proposed rules are currently available on the CDE website at [www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Restraints.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Restraints.asp).

The Colorado Protection of Persons from Restraint Act (Act) was enacted in 1999 and the State Board of Education adopted the Rules for the Administration of the Act in 2000. These rules are applicable to the use of restraint on any student. Restraint means any method or device used to limit freedom of movement, including but not limited to bodily physical force, mechanical devices, chemicals, and seclusion. In addition to the rules, the CDE has developed guidelines for the use of restraint as well as the use of time-out.

- [Restraint Rules](#) (PDF)
- [Restraint Guidelines](#) (PDF)
- [Time-Out Guidelines](#) (PDF)

The purpose of these amendments is to better align the rules, originally promulgated in December 14, 2000, to the Protection of Persons from Restraint Act, § 26-20-101, et seq. C.R.S., to add clarifying language, and to reorganize the rules to provide enhanced clarification for implementation.

In August 2007, a task force was convened with stakeholders from The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People, Special Education Directors, CDE-ESLU Staff, Colorado Association of School Boards, and the ARC of Denver. The task force also consulted with a number of independent professionals throughout the process. Draft

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language was developed by the task force after several meetings. A public input process was utilized, beginning October 22, 2008, through email list-serves to solicit comments from stakeholder groups across the State. Comments were accepted until November 24, 2008. Subsequent to this comment period, the task force reconvened, considered all comments, and made revisions to the proposed rules. A side-by-side document was prepared that included all public comment received and the Task Force's responses. Based on the comments, subsequent changes were made to the draft rules.

If you wish to testify at the public rulemaking hearing, each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. Please notify the State Board office at 303-866-6817 if you wish to testify so that we can estimate the number of individuals or organizations wishing to testify. Please also consider submitting written testimony to the following email address: [state.board.efilings@cde.state.co.us](mailto:state.board.efilings@cde.state.co.us).

If you have special needs and would like to attend the rulemaking hearing on October 8, please contact Elizabeth Burdsall at 303-866-6817 a minimum of 3 days before the hearing so that arrangements can be made.

- [Proposed Rules](#) (PDF)
- [Public Comment Side by Side](#) (PDF)

Restraints shall only be used in an emergency. To best prevent emergencies, the use of positive behavior supports is strongly encouraged especially for students who have behaviors that could result in injury to themselves or others.

- [Positive Behavior Supports](#)
- Article: [Considerations for Seclusion and Restraint Use in School-wide Positive Behavior Supports](#) (OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, April 2009)

If a parent believes that a district has policies that are inconsistent with the restraint rules or that the restraint rules have been violated, the CDE General Grievance process may be used. For information on the CDE grievance process:

- [CDE Grievance Process](#)

If a parent of a child with a disability believes that the use of restraint has resulted in or is due to a denial of a free appropriate public education under IDEA, the parent may access the IDEA dispute resolution processes. For information on special education dispute resolution:

- [SpEd Law - Dispute Resolution](#)

## Financial Assistance

### Help With Heating Costs

LEAP is a federally funded program administered by the Colorado Department of Human Services and is designed to assist with your winter heating costs. The LEAP Program eligibility period runs from November 1st through April 30th.

LEAP is not intended to pay the entire cost of home heating. If you are applying for LEAP assistance, you should continue to pay your home heating bill.

**Eligibility Requirements:** You may qualify for LEAP assistance if:

- You are a U.S. Citizen and a legal resident of Colorado
- You pay heating costs directly to an energy provider or you pay the cost of heating your home with your rent
- Your gross monthly household income falls within the guidelines set annually and posted November 1st of each year. "Household" means people who live with you and for whom you, as an applicant, are financially responsible

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,604
2	\$2,159
3	\$2,714
4	\$3,269
5	\$3,824
6	\$4,379
7	\$4,934
8	\$5,489
Each Additional Person	\$555

For more information, go to: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/leap/>.

## Independent Living Skills

### *Bridging the Gap: Java and Juices*

Bridging the Gap at Mile High United Way  
2505 18th Street  
Denver, CO 80211

Bridging the Gap is an initiative for young people between the ages 14 - 23 who are currently in the state public child welfare foster care system, are transitioning out of foster care, or were formerly in the public child welfare foster care system.

Bridging the Gap is a place where you can make connections, build assets, and find resources to open the doors to your future as you transition into adulthood. They currently provide a multitude of opportunities for you.

After you complete the enrollment process, your Opportunity Passport opens the door to an Individual Development Account and Debit account, activities with other young people such as Java & Juice, Youth Infusion, Monthly Nights Out and Service Projects, links to community resources in the Door Opener Network, Life Mapping and Planning where you create steps to the future you want for yourself within your personalized plan, and Circles of Support where you can find a Community Coach, build a Dream Team or be a part of a Circle of Support. Most importantly you become a member of our Leadership Team where you can assist in determining, planning, and implementing Bridging the Gap as well as educating others.

Java and Juices are drop in activities and you can come to any sessions you want. Sessions are held in Denver, Arvada, and Aurora. For a complete schedule of activities, call 303-433-8383 or email [btgcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:btgcolorado@gmail.com). You can also go to their website at: <http://www.knovada.com/jcyoi/btgpartners.asp>.

## Medicaid

### *Hearings on Waiting Lists for Children's Medicaid Waivers*

**Interim Committee on the Developmental Disability Waiting List**

**House Committee Room 0112**

**October 6, 2009 & October 20, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

The legislative interim committee that will be working on the waiting lists for children's Medicaid waivers will be accepting testimony from families. If your child is on a waiting list, please consider testifying. If you need assistance writing your testimony, or understanding the process, please contact Carol Meredith, The Arc of Arapahoe & Douglas, at 303-220-9228. [www.arcarapahoedoug las.org](http://www.arcarapahoedoug las.org)

## Mental Health

### *LINKS Initiative*

The mission of the LINKS Initiative is to promote partnerships among state agencies and key stakeholder groups by weaving together existing efforts to create a more coordinated continuum of mental health services for Colorado children, youth, and families.

LINKS is unique in the history of behavioral health system reform in Colorado because it fully engages communities, youth, and families – not only in developing the plan for reform, but in playing leadership roles in implementation and long-term activities within the system. It is not state government doing “business as usual,” but rather it is those affected the most by state government becoming active participants in opportunities to improve and enhance the current and future system.

For more information on the LINKS initiative, go to:

<http://www.csi-policy.org/links/index.html>

## Resources

### *Homeless Preventing and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP)*

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Preventing and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) provides assistance and services to prevent homelessness by quickly re-housing and stabilizing families. The goal of the project is to prevent at-risk individuals and families who are currently in housing from becoming homeless and to assist individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness and need temporary assistance to rapidly obtain housing.

To read a brief description of the program, go to:

[http://www.dola.state.co.us/arra/docs/hprp\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.dola.state.co.us/arra/docs/hprp_checklist.pdf)

Contact information for the HPRP programs in Colorado are::

Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative Region comprised of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties

Contact: Louise Boris, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, 303-293-2217

Homeward Pikes Peak Region comprised of El Paso County

Contact: Valorie Jordan, 719-471-8181

All other 56 counties

Contact: Louise Boris, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, 303-293-2217

## Surveys

### *COCAF Mental Health Budget Cut Survey*

Help us fight the Colorado mental health budget cuts by completing this form if your child has been denied treatment. Go to: <http://www.cocaf.org/crti-form>.

### *Adoption Birthparent Contact Survey*

If you adopted an unrelated child from foster care, your input is needed for a survey on post-adoption birthparent contact. Michelle Roberts, a foster and adoptive parent herself, is doing a graduate thesis on post-adoption contact in foster care adoptions. Even if you have had no contact with your child's birthparents, your input is valuable to the study.

The online survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and contains no identifying information. As a special thank you, you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to the store of your choice. Please take a moment to help with this study. Go to [www.AdoptionStudy.org](http://www.AdoptionStudy.org) for the online survey or contact Michelle at [meroberts2@eiu.edu](mailto:meroberts2@eiu.edu) if you would prefer to have a paper survey mailed to you.

### *Restraint, Seclusion, & Aversive Procedures Survey*

APRAIS, The Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Interventions and Seclusion, is a coalition of 17 national disability advocacy organizations. They are conducting a survey of parents and guardians to establish the extent to which restraint, seclusion, and aversive procedures have been used with students with disabilities and special needs (whether served under IDEA or under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act) in public or private schools or in residential facilities.

If you have completed any previous questionnaires on this topic or provided other information, the information you reported will not be included as a part of these results. You must complete this survey for your responses to be included.

The survey will be available for completion until **October 12th, 2009**. Approximately 5 to 10 minutes will be required to complete the survey. For the purpose of this survey, the following definitions are used:

- Restraint: The use of physical procedures by one or more individuals or mechanical devices in order to limit freedom of movement. Example: Holding an individual in an immobile position for a period of time.



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- Seclusion: Placement in an isolated area for an extended period of time and prevention from leaving the area. Example: Placing an individual in a locked room or closet.
- Aversive Procedures: Actions taken against a person causing pain or injury. Example: Pinching or slapping an individual.

To participate in this survey, click on this link:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KnCDtCkJDWAiaZRbNJ6BMA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KnCDtCkJDWAiaZRbNJ6BMA_3d_3d)

## Training Opportunities

### *Social Security Benefits*

Presented by The Jewish Disabilities Network/Jewish Family Services  
Douglas Smith, SSA Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Trainer  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Jewish Family Services, 3201 S. Tamarac Drive, Denver, CO 80231

This support group meeting will cover the following topics:

- SSI application process
- SSI resource test
- SSI and unearned/earned income
- Substantial Gainful Activity
- Medicaid and SSI (how to keep Medicaid if one is working and making more than SGA)
- Impairment related work expense
- Social Security and non-citizens

Trainer Douglas Smith is a senior public affairs specialist at the Department of Social Security Administration.

***You must RSVP to Inna Ermakov by Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in attending the presentation.***

***To register:*** Call Imma Ermakov by Monday, October 5 at 303-623-0251, ext. 212, or email her at [iermakov@jewishfamilyservice.org](mailto:iermakov@jewishfamilyservice.org).

## *Childhood Sexuality Part II*

Presented by The Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC)  
Dr. Gizane Indart, PsyD, Trainer  
Thursday, October 15, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Denver Police District 2, 3921 Holly Street, Denver, CO 80205

This class will present in-depth case studies and, step by step, describe the therapeutic model and interventions used. This training will integrate outcomes of the Kempe Children's Center Perpetration Prevention Study Group and the book *Web of Meaning: A Developmental-Contextual Approach in Sexual Abuse Treatment*, by Gail Ryan (Gail Ryan & Associates, 2000, Safer Society Press). This training will allow time for specific questions.

Trainer Gizane Indart, PsyD, a bilingual and bicultural psychologist, is the Executive Director of the Denver Children's Advocacy Center. She has been a Fellow with the ChildTrauma Academy under the direction of Dr. Bruce Perry since 2003, and has over 20 years of working experience with traumatized children and their families.

*Cost:* \$75 per person; \$50 per person for groups of 4 or more from the same agency; \$35 student rate with valid ID; \$85 per person after October 14 at noon or day of event.

*For further information:* Go to [www.denvercac.org](http://www.denvercac.org).

## *Child Interview Training*

Presented by The Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC)  
Thursday, October 29, 2009 – Friday, October 30, 2009 (2 full days)  
Denver Police District 2, 3921 Holly Street, Denver, CO 80205

This in-depth 2-day training will cover:

- Child interview techniques
- How to utilize the phased interview process
- Trauma and the developing child
- Practical application of language development concepts
- Defense strategies and tactics.

Case examples will be presented. Trainees will have opportunities for practice and skill development. Speakers will include Karen Blackwell (Forensic Interview Program Manager, DCAC), Stephanie Knapp (Child & Adolescent Interview Specialist, FBI), and others to be announced.

*For further information:* Go to [www.denvercac.org](http://www.denvercac.org).

*Partnering for Best Outcomes: Training for Parents, Social Workers, & Community Providers*

Presented by NACAC Community Champions Network (CNN), COCAF, & COPARC  
Friday, November 13, 2009 **and** Saturday, November 14, 2009, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Daniels Fund, 101 Monroe St., Denver, CO 80206, rooms 126 & 127

This 2-day training workshop is designed for parents, social workers, and other community providers working with adoptive families. Topics will include:

Day 1:

- Adoption 101 Advanced Review
- Normative Developmental Stages in Adoption
- Supporting Families Through Crisis
- When Residential Treatment is Needed

Day 2:

- Fundamentals of Case and Class Advocacy Action
- Subsidy in Colorado – Working with State and County
- Post-Adopt Resources: Current and Envisioned
- Parents and Professionals as Partners
- Action Planning

*Cost:* \$20 fee (those who attend will be refunded the fee).

*For further information and to register:* Tanya Hammar at 1-800-451-5246 or by email at [tanya@adoptex.org](mailto:tanya@adoptex.org).

## *Helping Children Cope: Reducing Trauma During Placement Moves*

Presented by CDHS & The Adoption Exchange

Enita Kearns-Hout

Monday, November 23, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Denver Dept. of Human Services, Rm 1026, 1200 Federal Blvd, Denver, CO 80204

This half-day course helps foster and adoptive parents work with children to reduce the fear, anxiety, and trauma of a new placement. It includes:

- What are the effects of placement moves on children
- What can I do as a parent to help reduce a child's fear and anxiety when he is placed in my home
- How can I work with other members of the placement team so the placement move does the least amount of harm to the child

*Cost:* Free to county employees and associated parents; \$7.50 for FCAAC (formerly CPA) network members; \$15 for all others.

*For further information:* Contact Denise Leffingwell at 303-755-4756, ext. 264, or go to <http://www.cocwtraining.com/ClassLists.asp>

To register: Go to [www.cocwtraining.com](http://www.cocwtraining.com), CDHS Course Code HCCP112309D

## Just for Fun

### *No Place Like Home*

Presented by the Adoption Alliance  
Saturday, November 7, 2009, 5:00 – 9:00 pm  
The Westin Westminster, 10600 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, CO

Celebrate the Adoption Alliance's 20th year and honor founding director Virginia Appel at the *No Place Like Home* event. Please join adopted and foster children and their families for a family style meal, storytelling by local storytellers, the sharing of adoption and foster stories, a silent auction and an opportunity to thank Virginia for her vision, passion, and commitment. This event is for children, parents, families, and friends. All funds raised will enable Adoption Alliance to continue the work we have done since 1989: Finding safe, loving homes for children.

Share your experience with other families. Enter your foster family and adoption stories on the Adoption Alliance blog site: <http://adoptionalliance.wordpress.com>.

*Cost:* \$75 for adults and \$25 for children 10 and under

*To register:* Go to <http://www.adoptall.org/index.php?s=63>

### *Free All The Time!*

**Aurora History Museum**, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway Aurora, CO. (303) 739-6666.  
Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Bluff Lake Nature Center**, off of Havana near Stapleton. For more information or clear directions call (303) 945-6717. Open sunrise to sunset.

For a comprehensive list of things to do for free in the Denver area, go to:  
<http://www.denver.org/events/free-events>.

### *Fun Things & Coupons*

For coupons for local Colorado activities, go to:  
<http://www.coloradokids.com/listings.php?category=funthings&type=funcenter&region=colorado>

*Need A Kid Break and Live in Parker?*

All parents need some time without the kids. If you live in the Parker area, check into the drop-in day care at Party On. Available on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for up to 3 hours. They take children ages 2 1/2 (and potty trained) through 12. Rates vary depending on number of children. Check their website at [www.PartyOnParker.com](http://www.PartyOnParker.com).

*Adoption Exchange's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fantasy Ball*

Saturday, November 21, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

The Donald R. Seawell Grand Ballroom, The Denver Performing Arts Complex

The 22nd annual Adoption Exchange's Fantasy Ball will honor Ron & Nastassja Zappolo, recipients of the 2009 Wednesday's Child Award and feature an evening with singer songwriter Kelley Hunt. The event will include cocktails, silent auction, dinner, live auction, and dancing.

*Cost:* \$175 Individual; \$250 Patron; \$3,000 Table Sponsor

*For more information or to buy tickets:* Go to [www.adoptex.org](http://www.adoptex.org).

## Website Topics

This section contains the headings from some of the previous COCAF newsletter items. Rather than reprint these items in every newsletter, we're providing the name of the article and a link to the information on the COCAF website.

- Adoption-Related Information [http://www.cocaf.org/adoption\\_topics](http://www.cocaf.org/adoption_topics)  
Adoption Exchange Support Groups Listing <http://www.cocaf.org/support>  
Adoptive Families Denver <http://www.cocaf.org/adoptive>  
COPARC <http://www.cocaf.org/coparc>  
Encouraging Adoption and Helping Families: The Case for Refocusing Federal Funding on Post-Adoption Services  
<http://voice-for-adoption.org/downloads/VFA%20postadopt%20paper%20FINAL%207.9.09.pdf>  
Foster Care and Adoption Self-Assessment Guide <http://www.cocaf.org/adoption-foster>  
Income Taxes & Adoption <http://www.cocaf.org/tax>  
Larimer County Alliance for Grandfamilies (LCAG) <http://www.cocaf.org/kinship-larimer>  
Starting/ Managing Parent Support Groups  
<http://nysccc.org/family-supports/parent-groups/parent-group-management/>  
Supporting Children Exposed to Violence <http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1314/>
- Adoption Subsidy Information <http://www.cocaf.org/subsidies>  
Colorado Subsidy Information <http://www.cocaf.org/adoption-subsidy>  
Expanding Title IV-E Adoption Assistance <http://www.cocaf.org/adoption-titleiv>  
NACAC Report on Adoption Subsidies <http://www.cocaf.org/adoption-nacac-report>  
National Subsidy Information <http://www.cocaf.org/adoption-national>
- Conference Calls/Discussion Boards <http://www.cocaf.org/current-conference>  
Child Welfare League of America <http://www.cocaf.org/conference-welfare>  
Conscious Connections Talk Radio <http://www.cocaf.org/conference-conscious>  
"Listening to Parents" Project Discussion Board <http://www.cocaf.org/conference-listening>  
NAMI Children's Conference Calls <http://www.cocaf.org/conference-nami>
- Education <http://www.cocaf.org/education-menu>  
Casey "Foster Parent College" Scholarships <http://www.cocaf.org/scholarships-casey>  
Expanded Access to College Financial Aid for Former Foster Youth <http://www.cocaf.org/college-aid>  
Foster Youth Internship (FYI) Program <http://www.cocaf.org/youth-internship>  
Mobility Issues & Special Education <http://www.cocaf.org/mobility>  
Online Educational Advocacy Resource <http://www.cocaf.org/edu-advocacy>  
Parents of Adults with Disabilities <http://www.cocaf.org/edu-parents>  
Reducing Behavior Problems in the Classroom <http://www.cocaf.org/behavior-problems>  
Spanish-Language Child Welfare Resources <http://www.cocaf.org/edu-spanish>
- Financial Assistance & Information <http://www.cocaf.org/financial>  
Financial Classes <http://www.cocaf.org/financial-classes>  
LEAP <http://www.cocaf.org/financial-leap>  
United Way's 2-1-1 Service <http://www.cocaf.org/financial-united>
- Health Care <http://www.cocaf.org/healthcare>  
Denver Options <http://www.cocaf.org/health-denver>  
EPSDT: What It Is & Why It Is Important to Behavior Health Providers? <http://www.cocaf.org/epsdt>



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Medicaid Waiver Information <http://www.cocaf.org/health-medicaidwaiver>  
UHCCF Grants for Child Health Care Services <http://www.cocaf.org/health-uhccf>

## Legislative Information <http://www.cocaf.org/laws>

Colorado Child Welfare Action Committee <http://www.cocaf.org/legislation-cowelfare>  
Emancipation Documents Colorado Legislation <http://www.cocaf.org/legislation-upcoming>  
Nebraska Safe Haven Law <http://www.cocaf.org/legislative-nebraska>  
Voice for Adoption Child Welfare Legislation Information <http://www.cocaf.org/voice>

## Mental Health Care <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-health>

Attention Deficient Disorder Association (ADDA) <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-adda>  
Autistic Children: ZAC Browser: Zone for Autistic Children <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-zac>  
CHART: Children's Help and Assistance for Residential Treatment <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-chart>  
Considering Residential Treatment Programs for Children <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-residential>  
COPARC Therapist Database <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-nami>  
E.R.I.C. Program <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-eric>  
Guide on Bipolar Disorder in Children and Teens <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-bipolar>  
Mental Health Websites <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-websites>  
NAMI Connections Link <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-nami>  
NAMI Guide to Crisis Intervention Programs for Youth <http://www.cocaf.org/nami-crisis>  
New Parents and Teachers as Allies Resources <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-allies>  
Resources for Youth With a Parent or Sibling Living with a Mental Illness  
<http://www.cocaf.org/nami-resources>  
Therapeutic Services for Jefferson County Victims <http://www.cocaf.org/mental-therapeutic>  
Treatment of Children with Mental Disorders  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/treatment-of-children-with-mental-disorders/index.shtml>

## Services & Resources <http://www.cocaf.org/community>

C.A.S.E. Adoption-Related Services <http://www.cocaf.org/services-case>  
Disability Information [www.disability.gov](http://www.disability.gov)  
Family Unification Program Housing Choice Vouchers <http://www.cocaf.org/fup>  
Grandfamilies State Law & Policy Resource Center <http://www.cocaf.org/grandfamilies>  
Kinship Program at Catholic Charities <http://www.cocaf.org/kinship-catholic>  
Respite Care Services <http://www.cocaf.org/respice-care>  
Respite: Give Me a Break Respite Program <http://www.cocaf.org/respice-break>

## Training Resources <http://www.cocaf.org/trainers>

COCAF Calendar <http://www.cocaf.org/event/2009/04/30/month/all/all/1>  
Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) <http://www.cocaf.org/trainers>  
Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute <http://www.cocaf.org/trainers>  
Foster Parent College (FPC) <http://www.cocaf.org/trainers>  
Washington Learning Systems Website <http://www.cocaf.org/training-washington>

## Free-For-All <http://www.cocaf.org/free-for-all>

Colorado-for-Free: Things to Do for Free <http://www.cocaf.org/free-colorado>  
Free Car Seat Checks <http://www.cocaf.org/carseat>